



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor  
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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *Governor Daniels unveils first BioTown, USA*

REYNOLDS, Ind. – Governor Mitch Daniels today unveiled Indiana’s inaugural effort toward creating communities where all energy needs are met through use of biorenewable resources. Reynolds, the first BioTown, USA, will showcase the feasibility of existing and future technologies in utilizing agricultural products and their by-products as fuel, electricity and heating sources.

“BioTown, USA is an aggressive plan that I believe will become a model for rural communities throughout our state and country,” said Governor Daniels. “We are taking challenges and turning them into opportunities by developing homegrown, local energy production to become independent from foreign sources; creating a cleaner environment; finding new solutions to animal waste management issues; and developing new markets for Indiana agricultural products and by-products.”

Phase 1 of the BioTown, USA plan for Reynolds revolves around biofuels. Governor Daniels announced that an E85 (85 percent ethanol) fuel pump would be located in the center of Reynolds to support the flex fuel vehicles already in the town – and more flex-fuel vehicles are coming. The town has committed to convert its fleet of vehicles to E85. ISDA is working with a vehicle manufacturer to get more flex-fuel vehicles into this town and is also planning to convert many of the remaining cars and trucks in Reynolds into flex fuel vehicles. This is a positive, money saving step for the residents of Reynolds amid skyrocketing gas prices.

Phases 2 and 3 of the BioTown, USA project include potential plans to transform animal waste from area livestock farms into electricity and natural gas. Set in a rural county, there are more than 150,000 hogs within a 15 mile radius of Reynolds, as well as several sources of organic waste products, making it an ideal location for a digester, manure gasifier or some similar type of technology to turn manure and biomass into energy for the homes and businesses in Reynolds.

“Our goal is to make Indiana a leader in the future of agriculture, and to do that, we must be progressive in advancing new uses for our products and finding more environmentally-friendly ways to dispose of our by-products,” said Indiana Agriculture Director Andy Miller. “In our efforts to grow our livestock industry, we will not ignore our responsibility to the environment. Therefore, it is our goal to recycle manure and other waste products into useful inputs, and energy production is a good example.”

BioTown, USA is a project of ISDA. In mid-May ISDA rolled out its strategic plan, *Possibilities Unbound: The Plan for 2025*, Indiana Agriculture’s Strategic Plan. This document describes the Department’s focus and guiding principles for the next several years. The plan contains seven strategies to grow Indiana agriculture; one of the seven strategies is bioenergy. The action plan for this strategy calls for the development of a pilot community that meets all of its energy needs through biorenewable resources.

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